

I CLAIM:

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1 1. A method of collectively generating for acquisition user-
2 created designs of products via a communications network,
3 said method comprising the steps of:

4 establishing graphic design software on a remote host
5 system connected to said communications network, said
6 graphic design software having a database module containing
7 product data for at least one product, and a graphic tool
8 module for visually affecting graphic images, said graphic
9 design software configured to run multiple, concurrent, and
10 independent program sessions on said remote host system;

11 providing public access to said graphic design software
12 by remote interface means, wherein a plurality of users may
13 each run a program session of said graphic design software
14 on said remote host system from client systems connected to
15 said communications network;

16 running a program session of said graphic design
17 software on said remote host system in response to each of
18 said plurality of users, said step of running a program
19 session including the steps of, under control of each of
20 said plurality of users, selecting from said database module
21 at least one target product to be designed, creating a final
22 design of said at least one target product using said

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23 graphic tool module, and submitting said final design to
24 said remote host system; and
25 storablely receiving said final design on data storage
26 means of said remote host system.

1 2. The method as in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 upon storablely receiving a plurality of final designs,
3 selecting at least one winner using selection criteria; and
4 providing said at least one winner a corresponding
5 award.

3. The method as in Claim 1,
wherein the step of creating a final design of said at
least one target product comprises the step of providing an
option to save an unfinished design.

1 4. A method of collectively generating for acquisition user-
2 created designs of products via a communications network,
3 said method comprising the steps of:
4 establishing graphic design software on a remote host
5 system connected to said communications network, said
6 graphic design software having a database module containing
7 product data for at least one product, said product data
8 including a plurality of parts images associated with said
9 at least one product, and a graphic tool module for visually

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10 affecting graphic images, said graphic design software
11 configured to run multiple, concurrent, and independent
12 program sessions on said remote host system;

13 providing public access to said graphic design software
14 by remote interface means, wherein a plurality of users may
15 each run a program session of said graphic design software
16 on said remote host system from client systems connected to
17 said communications network,

18 running a program session of said graphic design
19 software on said remote host system in response to each of
20 said plurality of users, said step of running a program
21 session including the steps of, under control of each of
22 said plurality of users, selecting from said database module
23 at least one target product to be designed, selecting from
24 said database module at least one target parts image
25 associated with said at least one target product, creating a
26 final design of said at least one target product using said
27 graphic tool module including visually affecting said at
28 least one target parts image, and submitting said final
29 design to said remote host system; and

30 storably receiving said final design on data storage
31 means of said remote host system.

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1 5. The method as in Claim 4, further comprising the steps of:
2 upon storably receiving a plurality of final designs,
3 selecting at least one winner using selection criteria; and
4 providing said at least one winner a corresponding
5 award.

6. The method as in Claim 4,
wherein the step of creating a final design of said at
least one target product comprises the step of providing an
option to save an unfinished design.

7. A system for collectively generating for acquisition user-
created designs of products via a communications network,
said system comprising:
in a remote host system connected to the communications
network,
computer processor means for processing data;
data storage means for storing data;
graphic design software having a database module
containing product data for at least one product, and a
graphic tool module for visually affecting graphic
images, said graphic design software configured to run
multiple, concurrent, and independent program sessions
on said remote host system; and

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14 remote interface means for providing public access
15 to said graphic design software,
16 wherein a plurality of users may each run a program
17 session of said graphic design software on said remote host
18 system from client systems connected to said communications
19 network in response to each of said plurality of users, and
20 wherein each of said plurality of users may select from said
21 database module at least one target product to be designed,
22 create a final design of said at least one target product
23 using said graphic tool module, and submit said final design
24 to said remote host system where it may be storablely received
25 on said data storage means.

1 8. A system for collectively generating for acquisition user-
2 created designs of products via a communications network,
3 said system comprising:

4 in a remote host system connected to the communications
5 network,

6 computer processor means for processing data;

7 data storage means for storing data;

8 graphic design software having a database module
9 containing product data for at least one product, said
10 product data including a plurality of parts images
11 associated with said at least one product, and a
12 graphic tool module for affecting graphic images, said

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13 graphic design software configured to run multiple,
14 concurrent, and independent program sessions on said
15 remote host system; and

16 remote interface means for providing public access
17 to said graphic design software,

18 wherein a plurality of users may each run a program
19 session of said graphic design software on said remote host
20 system from client systems connected to said communications
21 network in response to each of said plurality of users, and
22 wherein each of said plurality of users may select from said
23 database module a target product to be designed, select from
24 said database module at least one parts images associated
25 with said at least one target product, create a final design
26 using said graphic tool module including visually affecting
27 said at least one target parts image, and submit said final
28 design to said remote host system where it may be storablely
29 received on said data storage means.

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